

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 as follows:

An image forming apparatus according to one aspect of the present invention includes a plurality of optical systems and a plurality of image carriers, each optical system scanning a surface of a corresponding image carrier with a laser beam in a main scanning direction to form an image of a specific color on the image carrier; a plurality of first detecting units and a plurality of second detecting units, each first detecting unit being situated at a first position along the main scanning direction of a corresponding laser beam and each second detecting unit situated at a second position along the main scanning direction of the corresponding laser beam, wherein the first detecting unit and the second detecting unit detect the corresponding laser beam; and a clock frequency adjusting unit that, counts number of clocks of a write clock during a period since from when a desired one of the first detecting units detects the corresponding laser beam until a desired one of the second detecting unit detects the corresponding laser beam, selects a count of the number of clocks for one laser beam as a reference value, and adjusts a write clock frequency of each of the laser beams other than the one lased beam so as to coincide with the reference value.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

A method of correcting timing for generating laser beams according to another aspect of the present invention is executed in an image forming apparatus. The image forming apparatus has a plurality of optical systems and a plurality of image carriers, each optical system scanning a surface of a corresponding image carrier with a laser beam in a main scanning direction to form an image of a specific color on the image carrier. The method includes detecting the laser beams at least at a first position and a second position, wherein the first position and the second position being on the main scanning direction of each laser

beam; counting number of clocks of a write clock during a period ~~since~~ from when the laser beam is detected at a desired one of the first position until the laser beam is detected at a desired one of the second position; selecting a count of the number of clocks for one laser beam, out of the counts of the number of clocks for the laser beams, as a reference value; and adjusting a write clock frequency of each of the laser beams other than the one lased beam so as to coincide with the reference value.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 8 as follows:

According to the second embodiment, the printer as the image forming apparatus has a plurality of optical systems, forms images on different positions to form latent images on the photoreceptors as image carriers using a plurality of beams deflected for scanning by the optical systems, and visualizes the latent images through development using different colors. The printer includes the beam detecting units, disposed at two or more positions within one main scan of each of the beams, each of which detects a beam, and the write clock generating circuits as counters. Each of the counters counts the number of counts of a predetermined clock during the period ~~since~~ from when one beam detecting unit detects one of the beams until another beam detecting unit detects the beam. The printer also includes the write clock frequency adjusting circuit as a clock frequency adjusting unit that adjusts a write clock frequency of either one of the counted beams so as to coincide with the number of counts of the other beam.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 6 as follows:

The printer includes the beam detecting units disposed at three or more positions for each of the beams. The beam detecting unit calculates a number of clocks of a write clock during a period ~~since~~ from when one of the beam detecting units detects one of the beams

until an adjacent beam detecting unit detects the beam, and sets the number of clocks of any one of the beams as a number of reference clocks. Thus, the number of clocks can be made coincident with the number of reference clocks for each scanning segment. The scanning segment is obtained by dividing one main scanning region of each optical writing system into a plurality of scanning segments. Moreover, variations in misregistration between superposed images can be further reduced over the whole scanning region.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 2 as follows:

In the printer, the write clock frequency adjusting circuit as the clock frequency adjusting unit is configured so that a number of reference clocks can be selectively obtained from among numbers of clocks of the beams for each period ~~since~~ from when one of the beam detecting units detects one of the beams until an adjacent beam detecting unit detects the beam. Specifically, the number of reference clocks is such that the range of variation in the number of clocks is a minimum over the whole period. Thus, it is possible to obtain a further stable write clock.